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## Panther- April 2002 - Vol. LXXIX, No.26

Prairie View A&M University

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# THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu • Volume 79, Issue 26 • April 17, 2002

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

## New beginnings: Prairie View A&M hires men's basketball coach

### New coach Jerry Francis plans to take Panthers on the road less traveled

**By Sports information**  
Special to the Panther

**PRAIRIE VIEW, TEX.-** Jerry Francis, an assistant coach at the University of Houston, has been named the new men's head basketball coach at Prairie View A&M University, according to university athletics director Charles McClelland.

"Coach Francis has

extensive experience on the collegiate level. He's been an assistant at some major programs," said McClelland. "In our search for a new coach, we wanted someone who had a history of working with storied programs, was strong in developing and teaching the x's and o's, and had the ability to recruit top notch student-athletes.

"We feel that he is a great fit for where we want

the program to go at Prairie View. We look forward to some great things with Coach Francis at the helm of our basketball program. He has the tools, the background and the ability to get us where we need to be and that's playing championship basketball at the Division I level and in the Southwestern Athletic Conference."

Francis, who will assume his duties on May 1, is a

1991 Ohio State University graduate. His 11 years of collegiate coaching experience include stints as an assistant at Bowling Green (1992-93), Butler (1993-94), Ohio State (1994-97), Wyoming (1997), Ball State (1997-2000) and Houston since May 2000.

"Most young guys as players dream of playing in the NBA. I never thought I had that type of talent, so I focused my energy not just in hustle, effort and hard play, but being a great student of the game," said Francis. "I always knew that I wanted to be a head coach. I'm elated that President Hines and the administration at Prairie View have given me the opportunity.

"This is a very special situation, I don't have to uproot my family and relocate again. Usually, you come into a new job trying to find somewhere to stay, the wife is looking for work and you have to find a baby sitter for the kids. This situation will allow me to come right in and focus all of my attention on the job at hand."

In his previous five years, he has served as an apprentice under Ray McCallum. During that period, he assisted in guiding Houston to the NIT this past season and Ball State to an NIT berth in 1998 and an

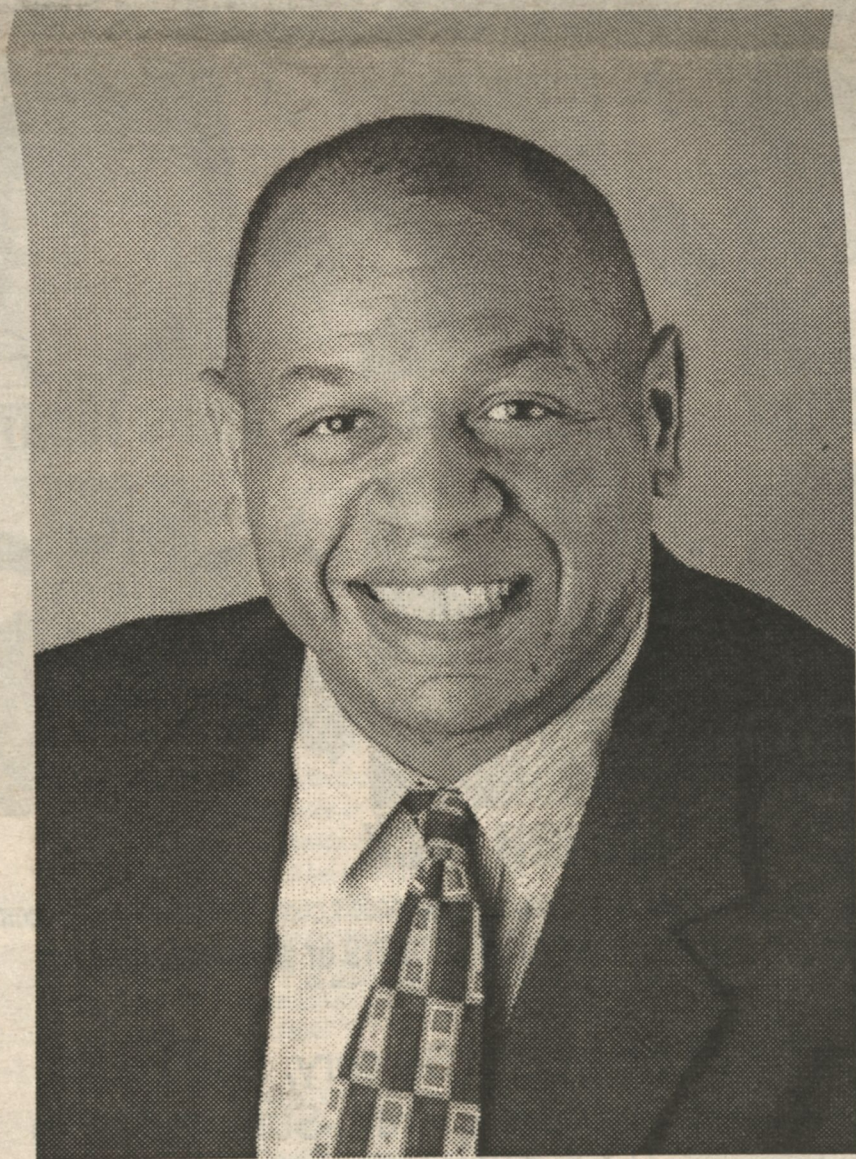
NCAA tournament appearance in 2000. In 1999-00, Ball State finished 22-9 overall and won both the Mid-American Conference's Western Division regular season and the league's post-season tournament.

In 1992, Francis started his collegiate coaching career as a restricted earnings coach at Bowling Green State. He left Bowling to become a full-time assistant at Butler before returning to his alma mater in 1994.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Francis was a four-year starter at Ohio State from 1986-1989. In 1986 and 1988, he helped lead the Buckeyes to the NIT championship game and in 1987 a birth to the NCAA tournament.

In 1989, his senior season, he guided Ohio State to the NIT quarter-finals and led the Big 10 in free throw percentage. He set a school record by starting 126 games and is currently ranked 15<sup>th</sup> on the Buckeyes' all-time career scoring list with 1,486 points.

It's going to take consistency, effort and energy to get Prairie View back to its winning ways. Everything must start on the defensive end," Francis said. "If the players understand our daily routine and what is expected of them, I think they'll be fine."



Coach Jerry Francis, the new head coach of the men's basketball program.

#### COMING NEXT WEEK

War on Terrorism: Isreal and Palestine

Book Review

Soccer team : the newest edition to Panther sports

#### INSIDE

Fight the Power page 3

**Internships: page 4**

**Mo'nique: Large and in charge page 7**



#### WEATHER

Greater Houston Area forecast:  
Thick cloud cover: High 86,  
Low 60. Possible chance of rain



•State•

•World•

•National•

**Bees attack Texas**

Dallas, Texas

AP- They look like other honey bees, but it doesn't take long to find out they're not. "These boogers, they just swarm you, they're very aggressive," said Andre Clowers, a beekeeper called upon to eliminate Africanized bees from a tree in Highland Park about three years ago.

"They stung me through my clothes and everything else," said Clowers, 74, of Kemp.

**Farmers pays back**

Austin, Texas

AP- AUSTIN (AP) \_ Farmers Insurance will refund about \$15 million to customers who paid too much in surcharges after being involved in traffic accidents, the Texas Department of Insurance said Monday.

The department and Farmers signed a consent order that requires the third-largest insurance company in Texas to pay \$10.6 million in restitution to customers, plus 10 percent interest per year for overcharges dating back to 1991.

Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor also fined the company \$500,000, but he then waived \$400,000 because Farmers self-reported the surcharge.

The average refund will range from \$40 to \$50 for every six-month period.

**Sept. 11 hijacker**

Cairo, Egypt

AP- A montage of Sept. 11 images, Osama bin Laden footage and threats against the United States from a man identified as one of the suicide hijackers was aired Monday as the latest message from the al-Qaida terrorist network.

It wasn't clear when the tape, excerpts of which were broadcast on the Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera, was made.

**Chavez's return**

Buenos Aires, Argentina

AP- From Mexico to Brazil, Latin American nations on Monday hailed the return to power of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as a victory for the region's democracies after years of military overthrows.

Chavez, a populist former paratrooper who was elected in 1998, reclaimed power Sunday after a popular revolt that undid his ouster by the military on Friday.

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**Project honors dead**

Washington, D.C.

AP- Two Massachusetts men were among 54 people honored posthumously Monday at a ceremony for those who died prematurely because of their service in Vietnam.

None of the people are eligible to have their names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, but were eligible for the "In Memory" program, developed to recognize men and women whose deaths were tied to their service in Vietnam.

**Whoopi's Leaving**

Los Angeles, Ca

AP- There's a job opening in the center of "Hollywood Squares."

Whoopi Goldberg is leaving the syndicated show at the end of its fourth season. She has been in the middle of the celebrity-filled game since the "Hollywood Squares" revival launched in 1998. Goldberg also is leaving as co-executive producer of the series.

**Hostages Slip**

North Fort Myers, Fla

AP- A standoff between deputies and a man holding two people hostage Monday was partially resolved when the gunman dozed off and his captives walked out unharmed.

But the unidentified man continued to be held up at midafternoon in the office of a Days Inn in a standoff which began about 5 a.m., the Lee County Sheriff's Office said.

No one was injured in the stand off.

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Prairie View A&M University's official student publication

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Anyone who reads The Panther can submit a letter to the editor by fax, e-mail, or postal service. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.

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for Letters to the Editor

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Harrington Science, Room 105.

## Fight the Power



By Tenesia S. Mathews  
Editor-in-Chief

We as the students at Prairie View A&M University have the power to change the way things are going. When situations are changing with no consolation to us there has to be a way to change.

There are issues such as shortage of professors and classes, the price of the meal plan, and the price of rent in the village that have to be raised.

Without us, there would be no Prairie View. Because of this simple fact in every decision that is being made we should be considered as top priority.

For that matter, we need to protest to and with the administration about the shortage of classes that are being offered. Because of this shortage there is a possibility that some of us won't be able to graduate as scheduled.

For these reasons, students tend to be giving more than they are receiving. We pay for over-priced housing, over-priced food that tastes worse than cow dung, and for an education that isn't being taught to us correctly because of the fact that our professors don't have enough time to plan because they are so overloaded themselves.

If there ever was a time to change the time is now. If there ever was a time for us to stand and fight the powers that be the time is now.

We have a tendency to care more about Gucci and Louie than the money we spend on an undertaught education.

My fellow students the time is now to fight for the things that we need most. Quality housing, Good food, and an Education worth paying for.

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# Wanted: scholarship recipients

Nasha Ross  
News Assistant

The staff at Prairie View A&M University Career Services spends very precious time seeking to provide opportunity for students. Career Services offers a variety of scholarships, co-ops and internships. At a recent conference the question was raised, why are black colleges receiving fewer scholarships than other colleges? The response to that question was every college is offered a numerous amount of scholarships, but students at black colleges are not applying. A lot of scholarships, co-ops, and internships are just being money and opportunity going to waste. Whenever opportunity arises, all one must do is

apply. It is a fact that Prairie View students are becoming lazy. Most scholarships, co-ops or interns only require a transcript, recommendation letter, and in some cases an essay. Once most students see that, they feel as though the requirement is too much. Recently, there was a scholarship posted in Career Services sponsored by Coca-Cola. The scholarship award was a large sum of money, which would be used to assist a student with college expenses. There was a small percentage of students that applied. Two commonly asked questions are; why must Prairie Views' registrars' office take so long to give you a transcript? And why does the

essay have to be so long? **Students wake up! This could be the key to your future.** Career Services is just one great source of aid to students. The Internet is available, as well as, word of mouth, postings on bulletin boards. Regardless, the number of students that are utilizing these sources is ridiculous. This is where the issue of setting priority comes in. **Students stop hanging in Alumni all day!** Devote time to doing something positive it could help. This is just one suggestion; one only knows what he or she will need to do to make a change. Start setting your priorities to things that will benefit you both now and in the future. **What is your priority now?**

# Busted with 200 lbs

AP writer  
Associated Press

FORT SMITH, Ark. (AP) — A tractor-trailer driver has been arrested on drug charges after Arkansas Highway Police found 200 pounds of marijuana in the cab of the truck. Kent George Stevens, 34, driving on a license issued in Connecticut, is being held in the Crawford County jail on charges that include possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and keeping a false logbook. Officer Fred Standridge arrested Stevens on Sunday after inspecting the tractor-trailer at a weigh station on Interstate 40 in Fort Smith. Standridge said he became suspicious after he noticed discrepancies in the

driver's logbook and receipts. The logbook showed that Stevens had been sleeping at times when his receipts indicated he was not. After receiving consent from Stevens to search the vehicle, Standridge found nine cardboard boxes containing a total of 11 bundles of marijuana inside the cab where Stevens sat. In the trailer of the rig was a load of flowers and gardening plants that were to be transported from California to a nursery in New Jersey, Standridge said. Stevens is scheduled to appear in court April 24. For the reasons of cases like his, police departments around the world urge people to say no to drugs and yes to education.

# Black Panthers Party members remember comrades still imprisoned

Paul Sheppard  
AP Wire

WASHINGTON (AP) — His fellow Black Panther Party members will gather soon in the nation's capital to recall the days when they battled their own government, their comrades were slain and their revolution failed. At the same time, 21 miles away, Marshall "Eddie" Conway will rise from his bunk at the maximum-security Maryland House of Corrections convinced of his innocence, as he has done for the past 32 years, and greet another day behind bars. Conway won't attend the 35th anniversary reunion of the black power organization that scared the devil out of white America with rhetoric as searing as the fires that burned in Newark and Watts at the time.

But Conway has something to say to his old mates in the struggle: Please, don't forget the Panthers who are still behind bars. "I want them to get serious about a national strategy to help us get out," said Conway, fingering his salt-and-pepper sideburns and raising his voice above the din in the prison visiting room. "Guys are getting old, guys are getting sick and dying off," said the self-described political prisoner. "And a whole lot of us are innocent." Up to now, small circles of family members and advocates have worked to win freedom for individual Panthers, but organizers of the Panther reunion hope to raise the issue's profile. The three-day gathering will be held at the University of the District of Columbia, starting Thursday. It was postponed from last fall because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Several hundred former Panther members and supporters are expected to gather to view a photo exhibit, take in a film festival and share a buffet dinner. They will also discuss topics like police brutality, Marxist-Leninist thought and youth organizing, issues that helped define both the Panthers and the turbulent times in which they grew to a membership of more than 5,000 in branches around the nation. Possibly the most visible of the 1960s' radical groups, the black-bereted Panthers were unique within the burgeoning civil rights movement. Their embrace of weapons in defense of a black community they saw as under siege provided a stark contrast with the nonviolent tactics of the Rev. Martin Luther King and the Southern civil rights establishment. Mostly forgotten is the vision the Black Panthers exhibited in establishing free breakfast programs for poor children, health clinics and pest control services for those who needed them. It was the high-profile appearances of Panthers bearing rifles often licensed and legal and the gun battles with police, which took lives on both sides, that have fueled their legend. Conway, convicted in a police killing in Baltimore, is among the 40 or so Black Panther Party members who are still in prison for convictions that occurred during the long hot summers three decades ago, according to the Jericho Movement, an advocacy group for people it terms political prisoners. "I know I didn't kill anybody," said Conway, a grandfather of 10. The prosecutor of his case insists the evidence showed Conway did. "I don't have a second thought about that," said Peter D. Ward, now a criminal defense attorney in suburban Baltimore. "We didn't try it as a special case or a political type of case. It was a homicide, and I'm convinced he did it." Prosecutors in criminal cases involving other ex-Panthers say much the same. The Panthers' appeal on inmates' behalf comes at a time when Americans feel heightened concern about race.

# P.E.A.C.E project starts email hotline

PEACE project  
Special to the Panther

On April 15, 2002, Dr. Sylvia Cedillo, Director of the P.E.A.C.E. Project, the University's sexual and relationship violence prevention program, announced the establishment of an e-mail information hotline that is available to anyone. Persons can now ask questions or request assistance by e-mailing [peace@pvamu.edu](mailto:peace@pvamu.edu). According to Dr. Cedillo, "The P.E.A.C.E. Project's one-room office in Evans Hall, cramped with staff and volunteers, makes it difficult for persons needing help to come forward, especially students. That's why we have established an e-mail information hotline that maintains a

person's anonymity." As for confidentiality, Dr. Cedillo remarked, "The P.E.A.C.E. project protects an individual's confidentiality, and will only disclose a person's identity with a student's permission or if a serious threat to a person's safety exists. To preserve anonymity, only P.E.A.C.E. Project staff will access inquiries and respond to them. Answering a person's questions via e-mail can make a huge difference in their life. Dr. Cedillo emphasizes that issues like sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence negatively impact a person's grades and level of involvement in campus life. In the long-term, sexual and relationship violence also affects employment. Why? It results in more absenteeism, physical and emotional illness, and inability to concentrate on work, but less job productivity. The e-mail information line is not just for those experiencing sexual and relationship violence firsthand. Dr. Cedillo encourages friends to contact The P.E.A.C.E. Project for suggestions on how to talk with someone about violence. Dr. Cedillo stated, "Every person is entitled to their bodily integrity and a healthy relationship. But sometimes people need tools for addressing a 'toxic relationship' marred by violence or assistance recovering from sexual assault. The P.E.A.C.E. Project is ready to help in any way possible. Let your fingers do the talking and e-mail The P.E.A.C.E. Project today!

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## For the Love of Money



By Marvin Anderson  
Sports Editor

With college basketball season over, here comes the worst part for college coaches the Early Entry period.

Players that blossomed into stars this past season will look to cash in on their new found stardom by declaring for the NBA draft.

Among the players following this new fad are Indiana's Jared Jeffries, Illinois' Frank Williams, Connecticut's Caron Butler, Duke's Jason Williams and Carlos Boozer, and Stanford's Casey Jacobsen.

Although all of these players were voted consensus All-Americans, I feel that players should declare for the NBA Draft if they have totally dominated the college game, or if they really need the money.

Whenever players like these take the money and run they only hurt the NBA Game.

For instance, how many of last year's early entry have made a significant impact on their teams, let alone on the league.

There have only been a few players able to make a smooth transition from college to the pros.

The reason these players had no problem making the transition is because they dominated on the college level and needed the change in competition.

For the record, I feel Butler, Jason Williams, and Kansas' Drew Gooden should see valuable minutes on some NBA team next season.

## Panthers tennis teams head to SWAC tournament

By Marvin Anderson  
Sports Editor

The Prairie View A&M Men's and Women's tennis teams will compete on the SWAC Tournament beginning today in Shreveport, Louisiana.

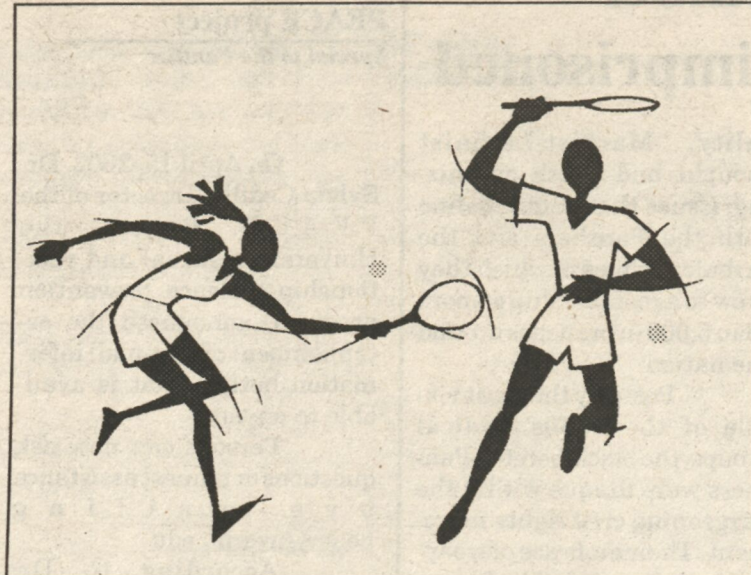
"Honestly, I feel we can beat any team there", said men's tennis player Ronnie Davis.

The Panthers, in their first full year under head coach John Cochran have produced an admirable team consisting of very few scholarship players, and devoted walk-ons.

"This team has performed very well considering the fact that they had been thrown together," said Cochran.

The Panther women boast a record of 4-8, which is excellent considering this is their first year competing.

The women have defeated such established programs as Texas Southern, Mississippi Valley State, Dillard University, and the University of Arkansas Pine



Bluff.

"Not to say that the men don't, but the ladies fight, and compete hard every match," said Cochran.

The men's record 2-10 does not do them justice.

They have defeated two quality teams in Texas Southern and Mississippi Valley State.

The overall attitude of both men's and women's tennis teams are hard work,

ernment Association President, Panther Advisory Leader, and Criminal Justice Club member.

Men's tournament pairings will go as follows: 1st set of doubles partners- Ramon Johnson, and Elvis Efamba. Johnson has been described as the teams best player.

2nd set- Lavell Darnell and Long.  
3rd set- Jerrad Deason and Jermon Malone.

Women's tournament pairings will go as follows: 1st set of doubles partners- Alicia Jennings, and Benita Freelong.

Freelong is a transfer from Dillard, who brings hustle and veteran leadership. 2nd set- Altovise Phillips and LaToya Lackey.  
3rd set- Faye Moore and Pam Amakwe.

Good luck, Panthers.

and dedication on and off the court.

Men's tennis players John Long, and Davis both exemplify this attitude.

Long, a junior political science major boasts a 3.4 G.P.A, plays in his church band, and owns his own computer business in whatever free time he has left.

Davis is a senior criminal justice major, Student Gov-

## Large and in charge

Mo'nique draws the largest crowd ever

By Tenesia S. Mathews  
Editor-in-Chief

This year's springfest drew the biggest crowd that Prairie View has seen for a comedy show. The reason for this was plain and simple Mo'nique.

Not only did the fabulous diva show up but she showed out.

Mo'nique has been in the comedy business for fourteen years.

"The hardest part of getting started was going on stage for the first time. But after that it gets easy. And praying helps also," replied Mo'nique.

Although more than a few students complained about Mike Epps and the fact that he was under the influence of marijuana, virtually no one had anything negative to say about Mo'nique.

"She was want I expected and more. Blunt and to the point. I enjoyed her show. The woman was great," exclaimed Alden Landry, a Prairie View undergraduate student.

In the near future, Mo'nique plans to release a book, and continue with the success with the Parkers. "



There is more to Mo'nique than Nikki Parker. Comedienne/ Actress Mo'nique brought the biggest comedy show sponsored at Prairie View.

Wherever God is going to have me that's where I'll be, Mo'nique stated.

Although this comedienne/ actress is great at both her crafts she says that "Stand up is better because I get instant gratification from the audience especially a black audience."

Mo'nique gets 5 stars from the entertainment staff. Her stand up was both funny and real.

Her attitude was also a blessing. She was one the nicest entertainers that Prairie View has had the chance to host.



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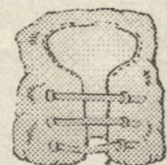
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- Administration vs. students

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## The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen

UC Congratulates the Women's Softball Team !!!!!

- ❑ You must take the TASP at least once every academic year.
- ❑ Check out the following URL: <http://calendars.pvamu.edu/> for information about our Quick TASP testing schedule or call 936/857-2747.
- ❑ If you had less than a 'C' or 'S' in a developmental class at midterm, you can not early register



April 16  
May 1-2  
May 3-8  
May 11

Early registration begins for Summer/Fall 2002  
Study Days  
Final Exam Period  
Commencement

- UC students who are eligible to register should make appointments with their PAs.
- Freshmen living in the Village who are eligible to register should report to the UC computer lab between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm from Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Need some math tutoring? Tuesday between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm, faculty tutoring is available in UC building #41 in the second floor lounge!!!

1. Why do the Sigma Juliets twirl better than the Sigma Rhomeos? 2. What was the purpose of their stepshow? 3. And what was up with those wigs from the 50s? 4. Who was the boy that flipped over the chain at the talent show? 5. Did he really want that bag of C.D. singles or what? 6. Can ECI be original with their steps? 7. Or will they try to be a little like KKY? 8. Does KKY deserve \$4000? 9. Will Pan ever step against CSO? 10. Are they scared? 11. Didn't everyone want Mike Epps to get a degree? 12. Could anyone tell that he was high? 13. Who is the white woman in the police station that answers the phone with an attitude? 14. Who should have won the stepshow the AKAs or Deltas? 15. Didn't the Deltas get cheated? 16. Since when did Big Moe work at William's Chicken? 17. Who is the guy driving the Honda Accord with the hole in the back? 18. Hasn't Springfest turned into a spring celebration? 19. Who would have rather gone to the rodeo than participated in the spring celebration? 20. What do you think?

Want to tell us what you think? Would you like to submit any questions you may have to The Panther? Please bring your comments to Rm.105 Harrington Science or email [panther@pvamu.edu](mailto:panther@pvamu.edu). Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.



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**Panthers from page 5**

ened fears of terrorism and violence. There was no public outcry when another radical from a generation ago, ex-fugitive Sara Jane Olson, recently received a strict sentence. "If the focus of the reunion is to get criminal cases reopened or get people pardoned after 9-11, that's going to have a real hard time gaining any traction in America today," said Emory University historian David Garrow. "Maybe, just maybe, some of them could have gotten a pardon when President Clinton left office in 2000 but now its hard to see how any governor, much less President Bush, would give any pardons in the absence of dramatic new evidence in a case."

But advocates for Panthers said they are undeterred. "No matter what you think of their politics, you have to look at the trials with some concern," said Robert J. Boyle, a lawyer who represents several imprisoned Panthers. "They never got real trials. People

didn't know about COINTELPRO at the time but the whole criminal justice system was infected with misconduct during that period."

In 1967, the FBI launched a counterintelligence program — COINTELPRO — against what it termed "black hate groups" as well as other activists such as the Weathermen and the Socialist Workers Party. Agents were assigned to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, or otherwise neutralize the activities of black nationalists..." said FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in a once-classified memo to field agents.

The program's most controversial efforts may have been instigating a bloody feud between the Panthers in Los Angeles and a rival black organization known as US. and willingness to back it up with bullets as a dramatic counterbalance to mainstream civil rights leaders' nonviolent philosophy.



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